

Idaho House (South Pass Hotel, Sherlock Hotel)
South Pass Avenue
South Pass City
Fremont County
Wyoming

HABS No. WYO-48

HABS
WYO,
7-SOPAC,
21-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20005

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. WYO-48

IDAHO HOUSE
(SOUTH PASS HOTEL, SHERLOCK HOTEL)HABS
WYO,
7-SOPAC,
21-

Location: On South Pass Avenue, South Pass City, Fremont County, Wyoming.
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: (USGS South Pass City Quadrangle Map) 12.680890.4703890.

Present Owner: State of Wyoming.

Present Use: The Wyoming Recreation Commission has set up room arrangements and displays to represent what might have been found in a hotel ca. 1870.

Statement of Significance: South Pass City's longest running hotel, Idaho House was owned and operated by the pioneer Sherlock family from 1873 to 1949.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION:

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1868 (original), 1970-71 (reconstruction).
2. Architect: Unknown.
3. Original and subsequent owners: Legal description of property: Lot 94 on South Pass Avenue, South Pass City, Fremont County, Wyoming.

(Note: For further information on land ownership in South Pass City see the HABS Report on South Pass City, WYO-27.) The hotel was opened in 1868 by William C. Ervin, under the name Idaho House. Ervin sold his combination hotel and restaurant to David Sherwood later in 1868, but bought it back in 1869 and changed the name of the hotel to the South Pass Hotel. Sold again in 1873 to Mrs. Janet Sherlock, she named it the Sherlock Hotel. The hotel was on land encompassed by the Wolverine Lode Claim which was recorded in 1893 by W. T. Meadows, Jno. V. Anderson, Ed Carns and J. B. Irvin. They sold the claim to Barney Tibbals in 1896 for \$201. In 1898, Tibbals sold the claim to Charles Van Sickle for \$200. Van Sickle sold the property to John Spry, who then sold the property to the Federal Gold Mining Company of which he was president. The Federal Gold Mining Company sold the property to Mrs. Janet Smith, John Sherlock, William Sherlock, and Peter Sherlock for \$1 in 1901.

In 1923, Mrs. Smith died leaving as heirs Peter Sherlock, Jennie Sherlock, John Sherlock, William Sherlock, Anna Tibbals, and James Smith. John Sherlock died in 1936 leaving as heirs Lulu Sherlock, Richard Sherlock, James Sherlock, and Donald Sherlock. Janet Sherlock died in 1938 leaving as heirs Anna Tibbals, Janet Tibbals, and James Tibbals. Peter Sherlock died in 1947 and left as heirs William Sherlock, Anna Tibbals, Janet Payne, Norman Smith, Richard Sherlock, James Sherlock, Donald Sherlock and Lulu Topham. During 1948 and 1949, James Sherlock bought the land from the above mentioned heirs for \$10 and other considerations. He sold the town including the hotel to Fred Stratton in 1949. Stratton sold the property to Mr. and Mrs. John Woodring in 1955. The Woodrings sold the property to the Wyoming 75th Anniversary Commission in 1966. The next year the Commission turned the property over to the Old South Pass Historical Preserve. In 1969, the Wyoming Legislature turned over the maintenance and operation of South Pass City to the Wyoming Recreation Commission.

4. Alterations and additions: The building has undergone several changes; the most extensive took place in 1970-71 when the Wyoming Recreation Commission completely reconstructed the building. The building was totally dismantled, the foundation was rebuilt and the entire building reassembled. Changes at this time included new rear steps where a lean-to shed had been, and more substantial wall construction (replacement of original board construction with 2 x 6 stud walls).

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

The building was the center of South Pass City social life during the boom years in the 1870's. The most famous family connected with the building is the pioneer Sherlock family, who owned it from 1873 until 1949.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Old views: Photographic file, Wyoming Recreation Commission, Cheyenne, Wyoming.
2. Bibliography:
 - a. Primary and unpublished sources:

Carter County, Records of Carter County, "Deed Books A and B," Dakota Territory. Western History Research Center, Coe Library, Laramie, Wyoming.

Files on South Pass City, Wyoming Recreation Commission;
Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Hebard, Grace, 1920. Interview of Mrs. Janet Sherlock.
Archived at Western History Research Center, Coe
Library, University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming.

Trevor, Marjorie C., "History of Carter-Sweetwater County,
Wyoming to 1875." Master's Thesis, University of
Wyoming; 1954.

Shaffer, Thomas, planner for the Wyoming Recreation Com-
mission; interview in Cheyenne, Wyoming on June 19,
1973.

b. Secondary and published sources:

South Pass News. April 9, 1870 and August 31, 1870
Microfilm, University of Wyoming Library.

Sweetwater Mines. March 25, 1868 - June 19, 1869.
Microfilm, University of Wyoming Library.

Prepared by John Paige
Project Historian
National Park Service
Summer, 1973

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: A typical example (restored) of a late nineteenth century frontier hotel.
2. Condition of fabric: Excellent.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The hotel is a two-story building approximately 26' x 55'.
2. Foundations: The new foundations are poured concrete.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: The north front wall is six inch lap siding painted white with rough-sawn wooden trim

painted deep red. The side and rear walls are natural finish vertical board and batten.

4. Structural system, framing: The reconstructed exterior walls are rough-sawn 2" x 6" wooden frame.
5. Porches, stoops: The four-foot deep covered porch the full width of the north front wall is supported by four rough-sawn 4" x 4" posts. The roof deck is enclosed by a simple railing and serves as a second floor balcony. The railing is composed of a baluster of four posts with sloped top rail and intermediate "X"-latticed balusters 32 inches in height. New steps and landings have been built at the rear of the building for egress from second floor.
6. Chimneys: One brick chimney in center of west slope of roof.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: There are three sets of double-leaf in-swinging entrance doors on the first floor front. Each leaf is an eight-light-over-two-panel wooden door. The door in the center of the north (front) wall at the second floor, providing access to the balcony, is a twelve-light-over-one-panel in-swinging wooden door. The doorways in the center of the south (rear) wall at the first and second floor have five-panel in-swinging wooden doors.
 - b. Windows and shutters: There are six-over-six light double-hung windows on the second floor north (front) wall and the first floor south (rear) wall. There is one four-light in-swinging sash on the east (side) wall at the first floor. The second floor windows on the rear and side walls are six-light in-swinging sash.
8. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Gable roof with wooden shingles.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: There is a false raking cornice on the north front wall which rises 12 inches above the roof, has a nine inch overhang and 12 inch barge board.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:
 - a. First floor: The three sets of double-leaf entrance doors open from the board walk directly into the center hall in

the middle, the dining room on the west and the hotel lobby on the east. To the rear of the first floor (behind the dining room) is the kitchen and to the rear behind the hotel lobby are two sleeping rooms which originally were the owner's apartment.

- b. Second floor: The second floor has a center hall which also runs the full length of the building. There are five sleeping rooms on the east side of the hall and three sleeping rooms (one of which is now used as a small gallery showing the reconstruction) and a bridal suite on the west side of the hall.
2. Stairways: There is a single run stairway immediately inside the center front entrance. It is enclosed on the first floor and has a locally-made 32-inch balustrade around the second floor opening. The balustrade is constructed of 3/4" x 1 1/4" rectangular balusters of rough-sawn wood with an oval-rounded top rail which is sanded on the top only.
3. Flooring: The new flooring is eight inch pine sheathing boards. The lobby and sleeping rooms have rugs over the wooden floor.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Muslin covered boards with paint on the hall and kitchen walls and wallpaper over muslin on the lobby, dining and sleeping room walls. Ceilings in the dining room, lobby and lower hallway and bridal suite are wood, the rest of the ceilings are painted canvas.
5. Doorways and doors: The doorways are simple wooden frame with rough-sawn 1" x 4" trim on the hall side only. The doors are vertical boards of five inch continuous bead tongue and groove wainscoting nailed to a horizontal top and bottom cleat. Above each doorway on the second floor is a 16" x 4 1/2" oval ventilator cut-out.
6. Trim and cabinet work: There is a built-in counter and a cabinet of mail-boxes in the lobby.
7. Hardware: All hardware is standard box-lock.
8. Mechanical equipment: There are three iron stoves in the hotel. There is a six-burner cooking stove with one lower and two upper ovens in the kitchen. It is by Majestic Stove Company of St. Louis, Missouri. There is a heating stove in the dining room which is a number 321 "Wood Air Tight" by the Great Western Stove Company of Leavenworth, Kansas. There is a heating stove in the bridal suite which is a number 21 "Diadem Universal" by Dribben

& Sexton Co. - Universal Stoves and Ranges - Chicago, Ill.
This stove is a rare double-cameo stove with the cameos placed
in the center of the double-leaf fire-box.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: Located on the south side of South Pass Avenue in what was the center of the South Pass City business and commercial area, the hotel is adjacent on the east to the Grecian-Bend Saloon and is oriented 25 degrees west of north.
2. Outbuildings: None, but there is evidence that there were privies originally located behind the hotel.

Prepared by J. William Rudd
Architect
Project Supervisor
National Park Service
Summer, 1973

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records were made during the 1973 Wyoming Project undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey in cooperation with the Wyoming Recreation Commission. During the project, records were made on twenty-eight (28) individual subjects and six (6) historic areas.

This project was under the general supervision of John Poppeliers, chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey. Project Supervisor was Professor J. William Rudd, Architect, of the University of Cincinnati. Project Historian was John Paige, Oklahoma State University. The measured drawings were prepared by John Uhler, University of California at Berkeley, Architect; and Student Assistant Architects Richard Duflocq, University of Cincinnati, Clayton Fraser, University of Tennessee, and Richard Wyatt, California Polytechnic University at San Luis Obispo. Jack E. Boucher, HABS staff photographer, provided the photographic record. This report was edited for HABS in 1977 by Candace Reed.